

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 00209 260916Z

11

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 /071 W

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R 260820Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2505

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0209

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, TC, SA

SUBJECT: UAE-SAUDI BORDER AGREEMENT

1. MINISTER OF PETROLEUM OTAIBA (WHO IS AOLO HEAD OF UAE SIDE ON UAE--SAUDI BORDER COMMISSION) TOLD ME SEVERAL DAYS AGO THAT HE HAD INVITED SAUDI SIDE TO COME TO ABU DHABI FOR NEXT BORDER COMMISSION MEETING, PROPOSING FEB 4 AS DATE. HE CLAIMED THAT NO PARTICULAR PROBLEMS HAD ARISEN IN IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT; IT WAS JUST QUESTION

OF GETTING RIGHT PEOPLE TOGETHER AT RIGHT TIME TO CARRY ON WITH WORK.

2. I ASKED OTAIBA ABOUT VERIFY OF REPORT I HAD SEEN IN ONE OF LEBANESE MAGAZINES WHICH ALLEGED THAT WHERE ORIGINAL UNDERSTANDING HAD STIPULATED THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD GET ALL OF ZARARA FIELD AS RESULT OF BORDER SHIFT, KING FAISAL HAD SUBSEQUENTLY. AS ACT OF GENEROSITY, DECIDED TO GIVE ABU DHABI BENEFITS OF ALL THE PRODUCTION OF ZARARA. OTAIBA SAID THERE WAS NO TRUTH TO THIS REPORT, THAT AGREEMENT IN FACT STIPULATED THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD GET WHOLE FIELD. HE SAID POSSESSION OF ZARARA HAD BEEN TENACIOUS OBJECTIVE OF SAUDIS THROUGHOUT NEGOTIATIONS.

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PAGE 02 ABU DH 00209 260916Z

3. OTAIBA SAID AGREEMENT DID NOT SPECIFY HOW COMPANIES WOULD
BE DEALT WITH IN TERMS OF GAINS AND LOSSES OF CONCESSION AREAS.
THIS REMAINED TO BE WORKED OUT BY TWO SIDES.
STERNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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